

# Rosa Club revives debating challenge in schools

By Thabo Jobo

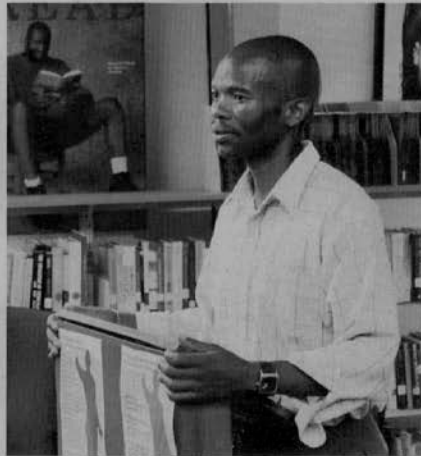
**ROSA Park Debating Club is in a drive to recruit young pupils and engage them in debating workshops as part of reviving the educational exercise.**

Rosa Club is an affiliate of Great Debaters International Association (GIDA) and currently it is working with various Soweto schools. The club is inspired by an American movie-The Great Debaters, which the chairperson of Rosa Park Debating Club Fika Mbambo said is their foundation.

“Debating activities in local schools have been abandoned,” said Mbambo, adding that this was unfortunate because it plays an integral role in the educational development of children. He said debating helps mostly in the construction of a language and further equips young people with communication skills, thus the revival.

The club currently has five schools participating weekly in the workshops to provide them an opportunity to challenge various issues of concern. Mbambo said they covered social, political, academic and many other issues.

“Children would come with a topic, then discuss it and analyse it before they classify it and debate about it. They are able to formulate their ideas and points based on facts because they have researched the topic,” he said.



Fika Mbambo, chairperson of Rosa park Debating Club.

Through that, children learn more and they build their self confidence to challenge their counterparts, added Mbambo.

The club is bearing fruit with many of the children now being able to speak constructively. Mbambo cited spelling, grammar, spoken and written language as those fruits and invited other schools to participate.

The workshops are held in various libraries and schools or pupils who wish to participate can contact Mbambo at 072 475 3349.



School pupils during their debating challenge at Jabavu's Ipelegeng Library.



Fika Mbambo engages school pupils during a debate challenge.